

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 22, 2016 AT 5:00 PM

Mayor Horne opened the meeting by announcing that this was an open meeting of the Common Council. Notice of this meeting was given to the public at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting by forwarding the complete agenda to the official City newspaper, the New Richmond News, and to all news media who have requested the same as well as posting. Copies of the complete agenda were available for inspection at the City Clerk's office. Anyone desiring information as to forthcoming meetings should contact the City Clerk's office.

Roll call was taken.

Members Present: Mayor Horne, Alderman Volkert, Hansen, Zajkowski, Ard, and Jackson.

Members Absent: Alderman Kittel

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Alderman Zajkowski moved to adopt the agenda, seconded by Alderman Jackson and carried.

Library Project Update

Mike Darrow explained that the School District is creating a development agreement to take down the commons building. The schedule is to have the development agreement finished by April or May. Then the school will get bids for asbestos abatement issues. The building would then come down in early 2017. The City is looking into CDBG grants this year. We are also working on West Central Regional Planning criteria and the process for applying for funds from them. The Library Board is going through a strategic planning process with Leo A Daly. As Mike receives additional information, this item will be on the Council agenda for updates.

VFW Building Project

Ken House, from the New Richmond VFW, stated that they will be losing space in the commons building and have been researching other alternatives. He presented a concept plan for a building in Freedom Park that would include space for the VFW, the Senior Center, the Day Away Program, public restrooms, a healing garden and a patio by the lake. It would also house a convention center and a pavilion that could be rented for events. Ken has talked to caterers in the area who have responded favorably. The VFW could have the military use this and the rest of Freedom Park for their training and they would break it into 10-12 projects. They could even build baseball diamonds. Funding would come from the community improvement grant. The estimated cost is \$1.5 to \$2 million. The timeline will depend on when the engineering group can come. Considerable discussion followed. Staff will begin drafting a development agreement for this project with formal approval possible in April. Alderman Ard moved to approve the VFW concept plan, seconded by Alderman Zajkowski and carried.

Jug Handle Update

Jeremiah Wendt explained that he has been working with the DOT to map out an alternate to the Jug Handle. A long-term solution that may be more acceptable to the City would be a bridge over Hwy 64 west of Wall Street. This would allow Wall Street and North Fourth Street intersections to be right in/right out and would still allow for some development north of the highway as well. Staff will present this option to property owners in that area to get feedback and bring that back to the Council next month.

2016 Street Project Updates

Jeremiah stated that preliminary plans are ready for the four 2016 street projects.

Project #1 – Paperjack Drive – Estimated cost \$1,388,921 with City's share \$999,506

Project #2 - River/Fairfield/Summit – Estimated cost \$1,874,910 with City's share \$845,018

Project #3 – North Shore Drive – Estimated cost \$1,751,172 with City's share \$1,512,729

Project #4 – North Starr/East Hughes – Estimated cost \$941,816 with City's share \$430,036

The total cost of all projects is \$5,956,819 with the City's share \$3,787,288. The City intended to borrow \$4.5 million. Current estimates put that amount at approximately \$4.7 million. The next step would be to approve bidding the projects at the March Council meeting and award bids at the April Work Session.

Safe Routes to School

Jeremiah Wendt presented a summary of the Safe Routes to School plan. The City received a grant to do an area wide study for safe routes to school. Several routes were mapped, along with curb bump outs, signage and other traffic calming ideas. If the City Council approves the plan, grant opportunities will be available.

Urban Non-Point Source Planning Presentation

Jeremiah Wendt presented the findings from a study done by MSA regarding urban non-point source planning. When the City reaches 10,000 population, we will be required to obtain a permit for stormwater. This study was done to see where we are at this time with treating stormwater and specifically looking at solids and Phosphorus. We are meeting approximately 31% solids reduction at this time. Any ponds that are not owned by the City will need to have maintenance agreements on them before we hit 10,000.

125th Street Upgrade Discussion

Mike Darrow explained that this street is in both in the City and the Township of Richmond and is in bad need of repair. Mike and Jeremiah will meet with the Town Board to discuss costs and funding and will bring it back to the Council in March or April. There was also discussion regarding a path along the road.

Mayor's Appointment

Mayor Horne appointed Mike Kastens to the Plan Commission to replace Rachel Greenwold. Alderman Hansen moved to confirm this appointment, seconded by Alderman Jackson and carried.

2016 Medallion Hunt

There was discussion regarding a medallion hunt the week of March 21-25. The Park Board would like to encourage people to explore the City's parks and trails. Clues will be posted online each day and there will be a prize of \$1,000. It will be open to the public, both City residents and non-residents. City employees and City Council will not be allowed to participate. Alderman Ard moved to approve the 2016 Medallion Hunt, seconded by Alderman Jackson and carried.

Communications and Miscellaneous

Alderman Zajkowski stated that the Skate Park hit \$80,000 for funds raised as of today. Jeremiah reported that the Just Fix It meeting will be tomorrow night at 5:00 p.m. at Ready Randy's. The New Richmond VFW Post will host the 2018 Loyalty Day Parade.

Closed Session

Alderman Ard moved to go into Closed Session per State Statute 19.85 (1)(f) Conferring with legal counsel for the Common Council who is rendering advice concerning strategy to be adopted by the Council with respect to a Notice of Claim received by the City on or about February 14, 2016, seconded by Alderman Zajkowski and carried.

Alderman Ard moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Zajkowski and carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

Tanya Reigel
City Clerk